

Having trouble reading this newsletter? [Click here](#) to see it in your browser.

timloughton.com



Tim Loughton MP's Parliamentary E-Newsletter

Welcome to my E-Newsletter

Dear Constituents,

Welcome to the Christmas edition of my E-Newsletter. This newsletter has been going for over two years now – do remember to let me know what you do and don't like about it and the articles you would like to see feature in it.



I hope that this has been a happy and successful year for you.

Thank you to all of you for your support on the KWASH campaign to save Worthing and Southlands Hospitals and the mission to save our local Post Offices from closure. I hope the people with the authority to make these decisions, which will affect all of us, have listened to local voices. It will certainly be interesting to see the conclusions of the consultations when they are published next year

As always if there are any problems with you think I can assist with please do get in touch and use me. My email address is loughtont@parliament.uk

My best wishes to you and your families this Christmas and New Year.

Tim Loughton
East Worthing and Shoreham MP

Tim's Campaign to Save Local Post Offices

Just when you thought it was safe to lay down your KWASH protest banners the post office has turned up to try and close local branches. Tim has condemned outright these plans which were announced on 13th November and he and local councillors have launched a high profile to get the Post Office to think again.



Post offices earmarked for closure in East Worthing and Shoreham are as follows:

Bowness Avenue on Seadown Parade, Sompting
The Parade on Broadwater Road Worthing
Downlands on Upper Brighton Road, Worthing
Old Shoreham on Upper Shoreham Road
North Lancing on Mill Road. Lancing
South Lancing on South Street, Lancing

West Beach on Beach Green, Shoreham by Sea

Over 4000 people have so far signed Tim's petition to stop these closures – if you haven't you can still do so on Tim's website www.timloughton.com.

Tim has also organised a series of public meetings to try and make the Post Office understand the strength of feeling amongst local residents against their plans. The next one is on Thursday 20th December (at 5.30pm in Broadwater Parish Rooms). Local residents will be able to question Post Office representatives. Tim would encourage everyone who cares about their local Post Offices to attend next week and make their views known.

In October last year the Conservative Party produced an Action Plan to save local post offices which would involve giving Sub-Post Offices greater freedoms to offer a wider range of commercial products, pushing for more Post Offices to be 'one stop shops' for central government services, campaigning to save the Post Office Card Account from being axed and encouraging local councils to consider opening 'council counters' in local branches.

This Action Plan would have saved many local post offices from closure and yet the Government ignored it. Instead of providing an alternative route for sub-post offices to flourish by allowing them to diversify their businesses, the Government has seen fit to simply manage their decline by closing a huge swathe of them. You can visit www.conservatives.com for more information on this Action Plan.

This Government have already closed 4,000 Post Offices nationally - that's a quarter of the country's Post Office network. A further 2,500 Post Offices are expected to close by 2009 – Tim is doing all he can to ensure the Post Offices in Adur and Worthing are not among them.

North Lancing Residents Association campaign on Post Offices

North Lancing Residents Association (www.northlancing.com) have been very active in campaigning to save North Lancing Post Office on Mill Road. Their chairman Andy Brook is pictured opposite.

The Association carried out a week long survey of Post Office customers in North Lancing. They found that an increased use of transport to get to the Post Offices left open would have a very negative effect on Adur and Worthing's attempts to reduce their carbon footprint. They will be presenting this evidence to the Post Office consultation.

The Association also organised a successful public march against the cuts which hundreds of demonstrators have attended. The march was supported by Worthing and Shoreham Herald newspapers (www.worthingherald.co.uk) who have got behind this campaign – their support has been very useful.



KWASH hands in petition



Nearly 130,000 people have signed the KWASH petition to save Worthing and Southlands hospital from closure. Tim, KWASH chairman Cllr Tim Wye and the other campaigners marched to the Primary Care Trust on 14th November to hand over the petition.

Tim is pictured opposite with the KWASH coffin which represents local resident's fears that the health authorities are trying to put the nail in the coffin of local health services.

[Click here](#) to visit the KWASH website

Still time to sign up for a referendum on EU treaty

As announced in last month's newsletter, Tim is urging all of his constituents to join him in calling for a referendum on the European treaty which many people regard as being barely different from the EU constitution which the Government promised to hold a referendum on back in 2005.



Tim has joined the cross party I Want a Referendum campaign which aims to press the Government to keep its promise to hold a referendum on the revived Constitutional Treaty. Over 31,000 people have already signed the petition calling for a referendum. If you want to sign the petition yourself you can find out more at www.iwantareferendum.com

Identity Cards

Tim is firmly opposed to ID cards on a number of grounds. He believes the cards will not work, they are a waste of money, and that they are an invasion of privacy. The Conservative Party have pledged to scrap the scheme when they get into Government.

The former Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, has admitted that ID cards would not have prevented the 7 July 2005 bombings in London. In Spain, ID cards are compulsory, but did not stop the Madrid bombings in 2004. People who work for Microsoft and the FBI have warned that they will not prevent identity fraud, and may, in fact, increase it.

According to Government estimates, you will pay at least £93 for a combined ID card and passport package. Given this Government's appalling record of implementing IT projects, this figure is likely to go up. Also, if your ID card is stolen, or you lose it, you'll have to pay £30 for a replacement. If you change your name when you get married, you'll have to pay for a new ID card. If one of your relatives dies and you forget to return their ID card, you could be fined £1,000. While the Government claims that the scheme will cost £5.6 billion of taxpayers' money, the independent London School of Economics estimates it will cost up to £20 billion.

Your ID card could hold almost 30 separate pieces of personal information on you, including your name, date and place of birth, gender, previous addresses, photograph, signature, fingerprints and other biometric details. All this information will also be stored on a massive collection of databases, called the National Identity Register.

If you agree with Tim you can sign the Conservative's petition by [clicking here](#) which calls on the Government to scrap ID cards.

Don't throw your old computers away!

Last week Tim went to visit the charity project CARE Computers for Developing Countries. The CARE project is run by Jib Hagen a local Worthing man who was inspired to set up the charity by his daughter who visited Ghana with him back in 2002.

CARE has been providing recycled computers to schools in Ghana since last year, so far providing at least 10 schools with 20 computers each and shipping a total of 800 computers, printers, scanners and accessories. Its aim is to supply all Ghanaian schools with at least 20 free recycled computers each within the next ten years. In return, the schools are being encouraged to start using recycling bins for plastics, thereby creating a further environmental benefit.



As you can see in the picture to the left of this article, Tim met Mr Hagen at Chesswood Middle School to discuss the project and they were joined by school girls from Davison School.

Does your firm have any old computers? CARE can accept any donation of PC's - whether it's just one, or one hundred and one, it all counts. Further information on the charity's work is available at www.carec4dc.com where you can also find out how to donate old computers.

Stop Press – Sustrans Wins People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway

The votes have been counted and Sustrans' Connect2 has been revealed as the winner of the People's £50 Million Lottery Giveaway, scooping £50 million of lottery money to spend on a national network of walking and cycling routes.

As you'll know from last month's newsletter Tim is supporting the charity Sustrans in their campaign to win money for a new footbridge in Shoreham. Sustrans works towards promoting sustainable ways to travel, such as walking and cycling, which are good for the environment and for people's health.

The charity is behind the campaigns Safe Routes to Schools and Bike It and campaign to ensure that pedestrians and cyclists have quick and easy access to local services.

Part of this £50 million will go towards a new footbridge in Shoreham which will enable children to cycle to school safely.

Local MP launches pamphlet on history of The Bell Memorial Home

Last Friday Tim joined trustee of the Bell Memorial Home Andy Brook to launch a short history of the much loved Lancing home.

Tim said he was "delighted to help launch this short history of The Bell Memorial Home which shows what a force for good The Bell has been in the community for so long – it's fascinating part of Lancing's history.



“The current staff and the trustees should be proud of the central place that this community asset plays in the local area.”

Adur Special Needs Auction

Tim joined Adur Special Needs Project to auction over 100 items to raise money for the charity. The auction was held at the Worthing and Scarborough Fine Auction Room who kindly donated their facilities for free.

The project helps severely disabled children and the auction raised over £3500.

Surgery Dates

Forthcoming surgery dates are as follows:

21st December in Lancing

4th January in Worthing

18th January in Shoreham

To book an appointment please ring Tim’s constituency office on 01903 235168

Office Opening Dates

Tim’s Westminster Office will not be staffed between Christmas and New Year but answering machine will be monitored in case of urgent messages.

Tim’s constituency office in Worthing will be closed between 21st December and 3rd January.

Tim monitors his emails every day of the year so if you need get in touch urgently please email him at loughtont@parliament.uk

Know anyone who might be interested in this newsletter? [Click here](#) to forward this email to up to 5 friends at once.

This email was sent to . [Click here](#) to instantly unsubscribe.

This newsletter is published by Tim Loughton MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. To contact Tim you can email him at loughtont@parliament.uk or fax him on 020 7219 0461. If you have a problem you think Tim could help you with and you would like to meet him to discuss it please ring 01903 235 168 to book an appointment at one of his fortnightly surgeries. Please visit www.timloughton.com for more information about Tim.